

WHAT IS CLAIM IS:

1. A method for displaying an image described by video words of a frame, the video words having bits with different bit ranks, said method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) for each bit rank, turning pixels of a spatial light modulator on or off in accordance with values of the video words for the respective bit rank;

(b) continuously exposing the spatial light modulator to light from a light source during substantially the entire time that step (a) is conducted; and

(c) driving the light source at energy levels that depend on the bit rank.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the spatial light modulator is any LCD panel.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the spatial light modulator is a digital
15 micromirror device.

4. A method for displaying an image described by video words of a frame, the vide words having bits with different bit ranks, said method comprising the steps of:

20 (a) for each bit rank, turning pixels of a spatial light modulator on or off in accordance with values of the video words for the respective bit rank; and

(b) substantially continuously exposing the spatial light modulator to light that varies substantially in intensity while step (a) is conducted.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the light has an intensity at one moment
25 that is at least about twice its intensity at another moment.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the spatial light modulator is an LCD panel.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the spatial light modulator is a digital
5 micromirror device.

8. A method for displaying an image described by video words of a frame, the video words having bits with different bit ranks, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) for each bit rank, turning pixels of a digital micromirror device on or off
10 in accordance with values of the video words for the respective bit rank;
- (b) discontinuously exposing the digital micromirror device to brief-duration flashes of light, the flashes having intensities that depend on the respective bit rank.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the spatial light modulator is an LCD
15 panel.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the spatial light modulator is a digital
micromirror device.

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